

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the applicants' related co-pending applications and issued patents (see Appendix A) directed to nanoparticles and methods of preparation and use thereof.

Claims 433-436 and 481-556 were pending in this application. Claim 500 was cancelled and claims 487, 492, 501-508, and 544 were amended to correct for typographical errors and to further clarify the invention. Support for the amendments can be found in the application as originally filed. For instance, claim 492 was amended to include the subject matter of cancelled claim 500. Claims 501-508 were amended to correct the dependencies. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced into this application as a result of the present amendment. Claims 433-436, 481-499 and 501-556 are now pending in this application.

Consideration and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested as it places the application into condition for allowance or in better form for consideration on appeal. The amendment does not add any new matter nor raise any new issue that would create any burdensome search for the Examiner.

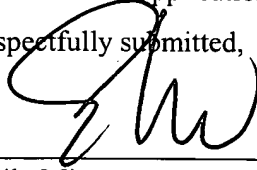
Turning to the office action, the Examiner had indicated that claims 433-436, 481-491 and 511-556 were allowable. The Examiner objected to claims 500-510, but stated that these claims would be allowable if placed into independent claim format. Claims 492-499 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC section 103(a) as being obvious over Yguerabide (U.S. Patent No. 6,214,560)("Yguerabide"). The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in light of Applicants' present amendments to clarify the invention.

In conclusion, the Applicants respectfully submit that in addition to the aforementioned allowed claims, claims 492 to 499 and 501-510 are in allowable condition and request a Notice to this effect.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested and a favorable determination is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that this would be helpful in expediting the prosecution of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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